



Houston welcomes EMS Conference

Houston, we have a ... conference. Texas EMS Conference 2007 brought nearly 1,800 paid attendees (nearly 100 more than 2006) and another 1,000 exhibitor reps, staff, faculty and volunteers to the Bayou City for five days. The verdict? The Houston set-up of the convention center attached to host hotel got rave reviews, as did the classes. Especially popular were the hands-on classes that allowed students to get practice skills. The nearly 160,000 square feet of exhibit hall was also a hit, drawing in nearly 1,000 extra visitors during the show.

We move the conference to Fort Worth for 2008 and 2009, so dust off your cowboy boots as we move to Cowtown and the newly remodeled (and enlarged) convention center.

Photographs by B. Kinney

Above, Texas EMS Conference attendees got plenty of skills practice. Here a medic practices intubation in one of the 150 different classes. The conference offered larger lecture classes and smaller, hands-on classes, such as the airway class pictured above.

Top left, students in the high angle class were left hanging – but not for long. A student learns the value of a good harness – and rope – in one of the outdoor rescue classes. Several rescue classes were offered on Saturday and Sunday.



Right: One, two, three, roll!
Students in the Basic Trauma Life Support class practice proper backboarding at one of the six skills stations during the 16-hour class.

Middle: Ready, set, intubate.
Pig tracheas took over a classroom for a day as students practiced during the two-hour hands-on lectures. The hands-on lectures are limited to 25 students and require advance registration.

Bottom left: EMS is a different breed, as we know. Students "sang the praises" of hands-on-classes and looked really happy as they examined different parts of cows during one of the two-hour workshops.

Bottom middle: The little bears were back on the table at the Tuesday awards luncheon, which seated nearly 2,400 people for a meal of grilled chicken and mashed potatoes. And some really awesome chocolate cake! The bears are given to the winners of the provider awards to give to children on calls.

Below: Bernie Stafford, center, shows a moulage student how to make a good bloody injury. Moulage was taught as one of the two-hour hands-on classes during the conference. At the end, one of the students won a moulage kit from the workshop's sponsor, The Fun Shop.



6.



Large exhibit hall draws thousands of visitors

After attendees walked through these arches (above), they found nearly 160,000 square feet of state-of-the-art equipment, supplies and educational materials, and a whole bunch of ambulances and helicopters. Nearly 3,000 attendees, faculty, volunteers and exhibitor reps visited the exhibit hall, plus another 1,000 visitors who took advantage of the complimentary exhibit hall.

Inset: Hermann LifeFlight staff polish their chopper in anticipation of the many visitors who came to the show.

Facing page, top left: The Houston Fire Department showed up in their finest to help kick off the exhibit hall opening. Our

thanks to Houston Fire Department personnel, who worked all year to make sure attendees had a wonderful stay in Houston.

Facing page, top right: A young visitor to the exhibit hall tries out a maze set up by the Houston Fire Department. HFD set up several hands-on displays, in addition to several rescue vehicles.

Facing page, Middle: If they demonstrate, they will come. An exhibitor shows off his wares during the show. The exhibit hall is set up to let EMS personnel see the newest in prehospital equipment and technology.

Facing page, bottom left: Rebekkah Renee and Cierra



Nevaeh Guerrero of El Paso enjoy the exhibit hall while visiting with their grandparents. Grandfather Raul Guerrero knows the importance of getting an early start in EMS.

Facing page, bottom right: Valsalva returns! The EMS game show made a comeback this year. The preliminaries were Sunday evening and the finals (shown here) were in the exhibit hall at lunch. The Blue Schertz teams took first; Charlie's Angels took second; and White Schertz are the teams that took home top honors.

